سُورَةُ الْقَارِعَةِ

The Striking Calamity

SŪRAT AL-QĀRIʿAH · VERSES 1–11

What are you making heavy right now, before the things you think are heavy today turn out to be as light as wool?

K. Mufti | الطالب الفقير

A Name That Hits You

ٱلْقَارِعَةُ ۝ مَا ٱلْقَارِعَةُ ۝ وَمَآ أَدْرَىٰكَ مَا ٱلْقَارِعَةُ

“The Striking Calamity. What is the Striking Calamity? And what will make you know what it is?”

1 ٱلْقَارِعَةُ	2 مَا ٱلْقَارِعَةُ	3 وَمَآ أَدْرَىٰكَ
You hear the name.	You ask what it is.	Only Allah can make you know.

This thing is too big for your mind.

Allah wants to shake you awake before He teaches you anything else.

THE SHAPE OF THE SURAH

ONE FULL SCENE
The Day of Judgment → FROM THE OUTSIDE
A loud noise → TO THE INSIDE
A quiet moment of truth

1–3	4–5	6–11
The shock	**The whole world**	**You, personally**
Just the name, repeated, to build fear.	People and mountains lose their familiar shape.	Your scale and your result.

The world breaks apart outside, and your excuses break apart inside.

Everything Loses Its Familiar Weight

يَوْمَ يَكُونُ ٱلنَّاسُ كَٱلْفَرَاشِ ٱلْمَبْثُوثِ ۝ وَتَكُونُ ٱلْجِبَالُ كَٱلْعِهْنِ ٱلْمَنفُوشِ

“It is the Day when people will be like scattered moths. And the mountains will be like fluffed up wool.”

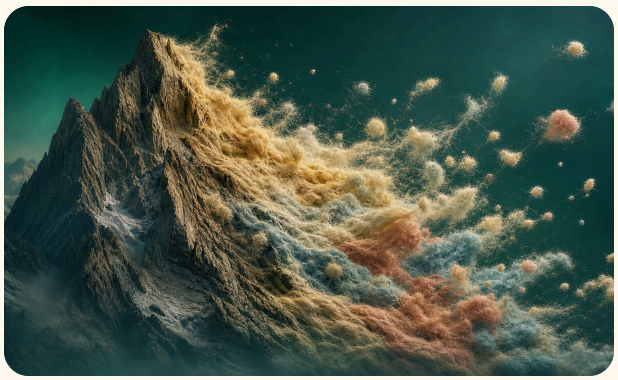
PEOPLE

Scattered Like Moths

They fly around in a panic, bumping into each other, going nowhere clearly.

ٱلْمَبْثُوثِ — CONFUSED · GOING BACK AND FORTH · NO PLAN

Not ants. Not straight lines.
Not bees. Not perfect cooperation.
Not birds. Not neat shapes.



MOUNTAINS

Turned to Wool

Allah takes the heaviest thing on Earth and turns it into the lightest thing you can imagine.

ٱلْعِهْنِ ٱلْمَنفُوشِ — COLORED WOOL · PULLED APART · ALMOST WEIGHTLESS

Rock becomes fiber.
Strength becomes softness.
Weight becomes air.

NOW **Mountains look heavy.**

↻

THEN **What you did for Allah keeps its weight.**

Right now people think their lives are organized. On that Day, all of that will disappear.

The World Scatters. The Scale Does Not.

فَأَمَّا مَن ثَقُلَتْ مَوَازِينُهُۥ ۝ فَهُوَ فِى عِيشَةٍ رَّاضِيَةٍ

"Then as for the one whose scale is heavy, he will live a life that is truly good."

وَأَمَّا مَنْ خَفَّتْ مَوَازِينُهُۥ ۝ فَأُمُّهُۥ هَاوِيَةٌ

"And as for the one whose scale is light, his home will be Hāwiyah, the Pit."

HEAVY

LIGHT

A life of real peace

Hāwiyah, the Pit

WHY "SCALES" IS PLURAL

1. Maybe each person has more than one scale, one for each kind of deed.
2. Maybe Allah weighs a person's deeds more than once.
3. Or the plural shows how enormous and serious this scale really is.

What matters is which side is heavier.

Not how many deeds you had, but how much they were truly worth.

Your Mother Is Fire

فَأُمُّهُۥ هَاوِيَةٌ

"His mother will be the Pit."

This is the most shocking line in the whole surah. The word for "mother" means comfort, safety, and love. Here, that same word is used for Hell.

THREE REASONS WORTH SITTING WITH

1

A child runs to its mother.

Hāwiyah comes from a root meaning to fall from somewhere high to somewhere very low. The sinner has nowhere else to go.

2

He falls on his head.

The Fire wraps completely around him, the same way a mother wraps her arms tightly around a child and does not let go.

3

"Mother" also means home.

The place this person keeps coming back to, his true home and starting point, ends up being the Pit itself.

وَمَآ أَدْرَىٰكَ مَا هِيَهْ ۝ نَارٌ حَامِيَةٌۢ

"And what will make you know what that is? A Fire, burning fiercely."

Allah takes the biggest symbol of safety in the world, a mother, and turns it into the biggest symbol of destruction, the Fire.

On the Day he finally needs real comfort, his only home is the Pit.

It Hits, Scatters, Balances, Pauses, Then Burns

1 **ٱلْقَارِعَةُ**
Repeated striking
The name is said again and again.

→

2 **ٱلْمَبْثُوثِ · ٱلْمَنفُوشِ**
Everything scatters
Things fall apart and lose their shape.

→

3 **ثَقُلَتْ · خَفَّتْ**
Two balanced sentences
Heavy stands against light.

→

4 **مَا هِيَهْ**
One short pause
Then the final answer.

SENTENCES BUILT LIKE A SCALE

فَأَمَّا مَن **ثَقُلَتْ** مَوَازِينُهُۥ
As for the one whose scale is **heavy**

↔

وَأَمَّا مَنْ **خَفَّتْ** مَوَازِينُهُۥ
As for the one whose scale is **light**

عِيشَةٍ رَّاضِيَةٍ
A peaceful life

They sound similar when spoken out loud, but mean the total opposite of each other.

هَاوِيَةٌ
The Pit

The two lines are almost exactly the same. Only one word changes each time. It is like the sentence itself is a scale.

مَا هِيَهْ ... نَارٌ حَامِيَةٌ

A tiny added sound makes the reciter pause. Then two words fall like a hammer: “A Fire, fiercely burning.” Nothing more needs to be said.

Two Ways to Measure Your Life

The real question is not “how big did my life look to other people?”

What did my life actually weigh in front of Allah?

THE WORLD’S SCALE

Respect what looks big.

- Tall buildings
- Big titles
- Lots of followers
- Lots of money

Huge to people → **Light as wool**

Did people notice me?
Did I look successful?
Did I win?

Mountains turn into fluffy wool.

ALLAH’S SCALE

Measure what it was worth.

- Was this done sincerely?
- Was it allowed?
- Did it help someone?
- Did it bring my heart closer to Allah?

Small to people → **Heavy on the scale**

Small acts that nobody notices can become the heaviest things on your scale.

Small + sincere can be heavy ⇄ **Huge + seen by others** can be as light as wool

Heavy and light are not about how much you did. They are about how much it was truly worth.

Three Things That Become Heavy

1

WEIGHT THROUGH FAITH

One small card outweighs ninety-nine scrolls.

≥

لَا إِلٰهَ إِلَّا اللهُ

Jāmiʿ al-Tirmidhī 2639

True, sincere faith in the heart carries more weight than anything else.

2

WEIGHT THROUGH REMEMBERING ALLAH

Light on the tongue. Heavy on the scale.

سُبْحَانَ اللَّهِ وَبِحَمْدِهِ
سُبْحَانَ اللَّهِ الْعَظِيمِ

Ṣaḥīḥ al-Bukhārī 6406

Saying “SubhanAllah” takes almost no effort at all, but what it adds to your scale is enormous.

3

WEIGHT THROUGH GOOD CHARACTER

Ordinary acts build lasting weight.

> **“Nothing is heavier in a believer’s scale on the Day of Resurrection than good character.”**

Jāmiʿ al-Tirmidhī 2002

- Control your anger
- Keep your word
- Speak gently
- Admit when you are wrong
- Forgive
- Never humiliate someone

None of this makes you famous. But it makes your scale heavy.

FOUR SIMPLE THINGS TO DO

Build Weight While There Is Still Time

1 **Protect your foundation.**

Renew your faith with real understanding, sincerity, and a genuine return to obedience, not just out of habit.

2 **Keep light-but-heavy words on your tongue.**

Say those two short phrases daily, with real attention, not just as a routine.

3 **Pick one thing about your character to fix.**

Choose one: your anger, harsh words, broken promises, pride, or impatience.

4 **Do one good deed that stays hidden.**

Quiet charity, a private prayer, quiet help for someone, or a quiet prayer for someone else.

QUESTIONS WORTH ASKING YOURSELF

Is my scale heavy or light right now?

Am I like those scattered moths, chasing every flashy thing online, or am I following real guidance?

Is my life something Allah would be pleased with?

THE BEGINNING
A sound that shakes your heart.

→

THE ENDING
A Fire that never stops burning.

THE BEGINNING IS THE WARNING. THE END IS WHAT IS REAL.

The work now is to build that weight, while there is still time left to do it.

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